

RECORDS OF THE JOURNEY

The direction of the road was now mainly E with slight deviations to the N or S. On the other side of the first mountain ridge a cultivated valley with a few villages opened up on the left, surrounded by mountains. A small river, which we crossed, flowed through it from NE to SW.

After 80 li Ehr-shih-cha-tzu with 60—70 houses and at 88 li the village of Koukuza with 10 houses in a valley between low, grassy hills in the N and S. The valley was about 2 1/2 miles wide and intersected by a tributary of the Ta ho, 20—30 feet wide. After 90 li Shyrynván with 20 houses. Here the mountains withdrew from each other. A slightly ascending and rather stony sunken road led us up to a plain with fairly large mountains in a N—S and E—W direction about 20—30 li in the E. In the N and S it was bounded by hill-like long, low ridges. After 100 li the village of Huchia youtzu. From this place the road dipped slightly, occasionally along a sunken road towards the mountains in the E. After 110 li the village of Kulishang with 100 houses, partly consisting of caves in the side of a ridge on the left. Gaolyan, millet, tchumiza, jumi, shuza, wheat, tchaumi and potatoes are grown. Average crop 6 fold. The fields are worked with rainwater. — 40 oxen, 60 horses and 20 donkeys. — Snow from the 9th to the 3rd month, almost 5 inches in depth. Frequent W burans in spring. Rain from the 4th to the 8th month. A wheel-track leads from here to Ning yuan ting.

The ground during the 110 li of to-day's journey was very much like that we covered during the latter half of yesterday. No more high mountains, all the time we were surrounded by low mountains or hills like mounds or ridges. The road either traversed a long and narrow valley or it crossed another, but more in the nature of a plain, all, however, enclosed by low grassy hills. *July 11th.*  
*Suchi village.*

At first the course of the road was E towards a valley, about 1/2 mile in width, at the bottom of which a dry river bed wound. Low, grassy hills extended on both sides with gentle slopes, the lower parts of which, as well as the bottom of the valley, were cultivated. Several side-gorges opened up in the northern mountains, each one contributing a dry river bed from the N or NNE. After 10 li Latiouza with 10 houses. The valley had grown narrower and was not more than about 600 yards wide. The crop in the fields was meagre. The soil was very sandy and stony. After 11 li Miao kou meng with 15 houses, after 17 li Teitjajouza with 50—60. The ground grew stonier and stones of large size began to occur at intervals. After 19 and 22 li the village of Shuimo with 15 houses in two small groups, 25 li Hle with 5—6 houses. Our course was now ESE. On the left we caught sight of small groups of villages at the mouths of gorges some distance from the road. Higher up the slope, on the right, a small clump of low trees here and there. An occasional group of cattle or small flock of sheep was visible on the heights.

After 40 li we reached Taushu with 40 houses. Just beyond it we encountered a fairly large grassy ridge going in a N—S direction that seemed to cut off the valley. A dry river bed came out of a wide gorge in the S, another rather larger one from the NE. The road led up towards the latter and we were soon in a valley, about 230 yards wide, between similar grassy chains of hills. After 50 li Hungsapa with 30 houses. We now noticed a slight, but